

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of May 19, 2004, claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to overcome the rejection of this claim as set forth at paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Official Action. Because claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to distinguish it over the cited art for the reasons set forth below, it is also respectfully submitted that the remaining claims rejected at paragraph 3; namely, dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-9 are also distinguished over the cited art.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out that the body preform is *entirely* of sintered ceramic material defining the shape of the body, which is hollow. The Examiner at paragraph 5 of the Official Action, in the section entitled "Response to Arguments," states that in applicant's previous arguments filed on January 30, 2004, applicant's argument pointed out that Wei et al. does not show the preform body being entirely sintered. However, the Examiner noted that this limitation was not recited in the rejected claims. With the present amendment of claim 1, it is now made clear that the body preform is entirely sintered ceramic material and not partially sintered ceramic material. As such, and for the reasons set forth in applicant's arguments filed on January 30, 2004, it is respectfully submitted that Wei et al. does not disclose or suggest amended claim. 1. It should be noted that the amendment to claim 1 indicating that the body preform is entirely sintered ceramic material does not require any further examination by the Examiner since this argument was presented in applicant's arguments filed on January 30, 2004. Therefore, the amendment to claim 1 is respectfully requested for entry.

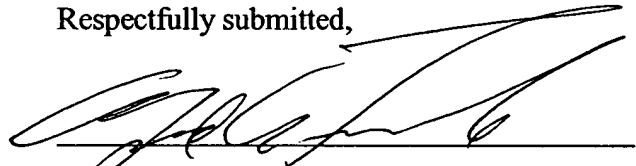
Since claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over Wei et al., it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 3 and 6-9 are also distinguished over Wei et al. Furthermore, with respect to claim 2, the Examiner notes at paragraph 5 that in the Examiner's opinion, Wei et al. shows a preform having a stepped recess at one end for receiving the window. The Examiner relies upon Figure 1 of Wei et al. and the preform (12, 16) with the opinion that the frit 26 corresponds to the stepped recess in combination with part 16. As noted in applicant's prior amendment filed on January 30, 2004, Wei et al. states at column 2, lines 33-38, that a second

alumina disc 24 is inserted into the recess formed by first disc 16 and the end 18 of body 12 and is then sealed by sealing frit 26 which can be in the form of a ring positioned between the outer surface 28 of second disc 24 and the inner surface 30 of body 12. From this description in Wei et al., applicant respectfully disagrees that the frit itself constitutes a step in combination with first disc 16, but rather is inserted after the second alumina disc 24 is inserted into the recess so as to seal this disc to body 12. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is further distinguished over Wei et al.

It is noted at paragraph 4 of the Official Action that claims 4, 5, 10 and 18-25 are allowed for the reasons stated in the Official Action of August 28, 2003. Since no other claims are pending in the current application, it is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this amendment in response to the final Official Action; however, should there be any fee due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account, number 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 27,550

Dated: August 20, 2004

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955